

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time for a
2 workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation logic, the
3 method comprising the steps of:
4 a) maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes at least one conversation
5 logic that is external to the workflow definition;
6 b) when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, dynamically
7 discovering a service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation logic;
8 c) determining a corresponding conversation logic in the conversation logic
9 repository based on the discovered service; and
10 d) dynamically plugging in the determined conversation logic into the node at run
11 time.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1
2 wherein the step of when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic,
3 dynamically discovering a service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation
4 logic includes the steps of:
5 determining a service based on a service selection rule;
6 receiving a service reference; and
7 wherein the step of determining a corresponding conversation logic in the conversation
8 logic repository based on the discovered service further includes the [[steps]] step of
9 using the service reference to determine a conversation logic for the determined service.

1 3. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time
2 comprising the steps of:
3 maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes at least one conversation logic;
4 at run-time, sending a service selection query to an electronic services platform or other
5 service broker;
6 receiving a returned service identifier ~~or reference~~; and
7 selecting a conversation logic from the conversation logic repository ~~of conversation~~
8 ~~logics~~ based on ~~[[a]]~~ the returned service identifier.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein each conversation logic is associated with at
2 least one service.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the conversation logic is for the exclusive use
2 of a given composite service.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the conversation ~~logics~~ logic is
2 shared by two or more composite services.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the conversation logic is not
2 defined in ~~[[the]]~~ a workflow at process definition time, the workflow defining a procedure that
3 executes services.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising ~~the step of~~:
2 interacting with a dynamic service discovery mechanism; and
3 dynamically discovering services.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:
2 performing late binding of the conversation logic at run-time.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the repository is one of a single central
2 database and multiple distributed files.

1 11. (Original) A system for dynamically selecting a conversation logic at run-time for a
2 workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation logic
3 comprising:

- 4 a) a workflow engine for processing workflow definitions;
- 5 b) a conversation logic repository that includes at least one conversation logic and
6 that is external to the workflow definition;
- 7 c) a dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism for receiving a service
8 identifier that is associated with a service at run-time and based thereon for selecting a
9 conversation logic for interacting with the service at run-time.

1 12. (Original) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

- 2 d) a source for services; wherein the source discovers services based on a service
3 selection rule;
- 4 wherein the dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism (DCLSM) selects
5 appropriate conversation logic from the conversation logic repository based on a discovered
6 service.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[11]] 12 wherein the source for services is
2 one of a service broker, a service marketplace, an e-services platform, a company, and an entity.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein only services that have a
2 conversation protocol compatible with one of the conversation ~~logies~~ logic available in the
3 repository are selected.

1 15. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein each conversation logic is associated with at
2 least one service.

- 1 16. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the conversation logic is for the exclusive use
2 of a given composite service.
- 1 17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the conversation ~~logics~~ logic is
2 shared by two or more composite services.
- 1 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the conversation logic is not
2 defined in the workflow definition at process definition time.
- 1 19. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the dynamic conversation logic selection
2 mechanism performs late binding of the conversation logic at run-time.
- 1 20. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the conversation logic repository is one of a
2 single central database and multiple distributed files.
- 1 21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the conversation logic repository comprises
2 plural conversation logic, and wherein determining the corresponding conversation logic
3 comprises selecting one of the plural conversation logic based on the discovered service.
- 1 22. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the conversation logic repository comprises
2 plural conversation logic, and wherein selecting a conversation logic comprises selecting one of
3 the plural conversation logic.
- 1 23. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the conversation logic repository includes plural
2 conversation logic, and wherein the dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism selects one
3 of the plural conversation logic that is associated with the service.